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On Behalf Of:
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Measure: HB3198

Early literacy is critical for kids in K-3. My son who is now 23 struggled in Portland Public schools getting enough early reading intervention and diagnosis and did not start reading fluidly until we moved to Colorado in his 4th grade year and they had a significant reading tutoring program in the school so that everyone read by 3rd grade. He was the only 4th grader in the program and in just 6 short months he was reading independently and I saw what a difference a strong literacy program makes at a young age. Helpers in the classroom, small groups. Same language reading and if the class is bilingual, support in both languages is critical too. Teachers were also taught how to teach reading and that seemed to make a difference. The older teachers needed to change their ways and the inexperienced teachers need the coaching. Continued summer reading programs like library check out and read contests and small book groups for 3rd graders also kept the reading going all summer. My hope is that HB 3198 is a path to improving literacy rates in Oregon. I come from two educators in the state and I've seen the large class size over the last 3 decades in the early years severely impact the students' reading abilities. My hope is for HB3198 to put us on the right path to helping kids learn to read, strengthening our schools overall and encouraging out of state families to want to live here and use our public schools to keep the economy thriving as well.